

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims Status

Claims 4-11 had been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner noted that the cited references do not teach or suggest the scoring scheme required in the Table in Claim 4. The Examiner also indicated that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 4 has been amended to add the limitations of Claims 1-3 and Claims 1-3 have been canceled herein. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 has been

rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5-11 are dependent upon Claim 4, thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-11 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has also been amended herein to add the limitations of Claims 2-4. Because Claim 14 now includes the allowable subject matter of Claim 4, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 14 is also allowable.

Claim 15, the method claim, has also been amended herein to include the limitations of Claim 4. In light of the amendments made to Claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 15 is now allowable.

Finally, Claim 16 is dependent upon Claim 15 and, thus, is also deemed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-16 are now in condition for allowance.

It is also respectfully submitted that these amendments should be added herein because it places all of the claims in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 14-16 had been rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Arnold and Brown.

In light of the amendments made to Claims 4, 14 and 15, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is now moot and all of the claims are patentable over the cited references taken alone or in combination.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,
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